



THE LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
THE ART OF BEEBE LIBRARY







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ABOUT BEEBE LIBRARY

Wakefield's first public library was established in 1856 in the old Town House, overlooking the Common. In 1868, the library moved to the new Town Hall at the corner of Main and Water Streets, which had been donated by Cyrus Wakefield, for whom the town is named. Lucius Beebe donated \$500 toward the purchase of new books, and that year he was honored at Town Meeting with a vote to change the library's name to "Beebe Town Library of Wakefield."

As the library grew, it became necessary to relocate and expand. In 1916, the townspeople purchased a lot at the corner of Main and Avon Streets for \$16,000. That same year, Junius Beebe, son of Lucius Beebe, donated \$60,000 toward the construction of a new library building to be built in memory of his parents, Lucius and Sylenda.

The cornerstone was laid on March 17, 1922 and the building was dedicated on April 14, 1923. Built in the Classical Revival style, the library was a departure from architect Ralph Adams Cram's usual Neo-Gothic style. Cram, of the firm Cram & Ferguson, was considered to be one of the country's best Gothic architects, having also designed the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and consulted on the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

The original part of the building has a large skylit entrance hall flanked by two reading rooms, each up a short flight of marble stairs. The north reading room is graced by fourteen medallions depicting famous literary figures. Both reading rooms include marble fireplaces, built-in wooden bookshelves, and elegant Adam style plaster detailing on the walls and ceilings. The central lobby has a black and white marble floor and cast iron stair railings with urn motifs that echo the stone urns on the building's façade. The beehive, a symbol of the Beebe family, is used throughout the building as a decorative motif.

In 1967, because the original building was becoming overcrowded, the town planned an addition, which was designed by James F. Clapp, Jr. of the Boston architectural firm Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbot. The addition was opened on September 14, 1969. Further renovations in 1997 included the second floor, atrium, and skylight above the current Reference Area. The building reopened in 1998 in its current configuration.

The library houses a number of works of original art, many of which are on permanent display, including paintings, photographs, and sculptures. We hope you will use the following pages as a guide to tour and appreciate both the building and the art it contains.



ART ON THE LOWER LEVEL

ADULT FICTION



Lucius Morris Beebe and T-Bone Towser

H. [Krill?], 1954

Oil painting, 99 x 72 cm.

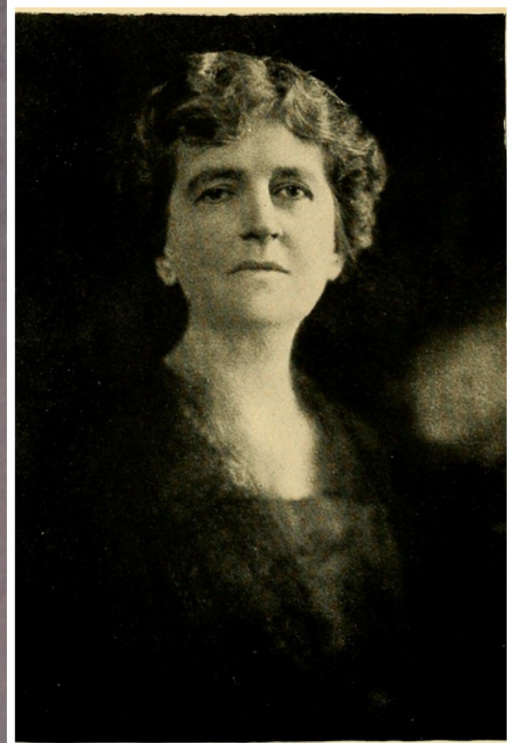
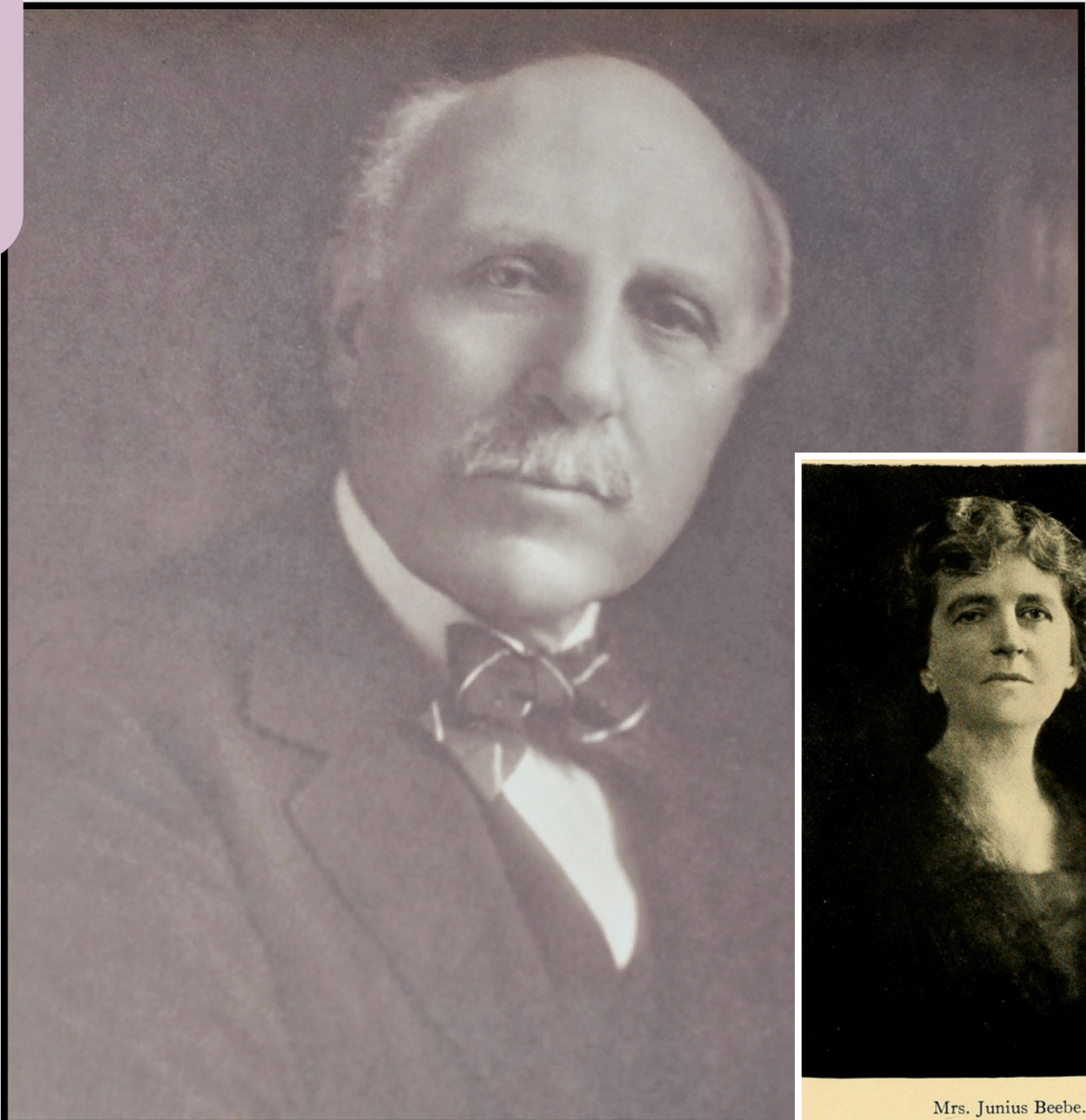
Portrait depicts Lucius Morris Beebe posing with his Saint Bernard, T-Bone Towser. Lucius Morris was famous for his high style, society journalism, and passion for railroading.



Above: [Lucius Beebe with his dog, T-Bone Towser]; [T-Bone Towser in front of fireplace]. Photographs courtesy of California State Railroad Museum, Portraits Collection.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

CIRCULATION AREA



Mrs. Junius Beebe.

Junius Beebe

Creator unknown, circa early 1900s

Photograph: salted paper print, 33 x 25 cm.

Junius Beebe (1854-1934) was the son of Lucius Beebe and Sylenda Morris Beebe. He married Eleanor Harriet Merrick and they had four children: Junius Merrick (1891-1892); Lucia (1892-1963); Junius Oliver [J. Oliver] (1894-1933); and Lucius Morris (1902-1966).

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

CIRCULATION AREA



J. O. BEEBE KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

**Boston Banker Was Making
First Solo Flight After
Successful Landings.**

CITED FOR WAR SERVICE

**Joining Harvard Unit Following
Graduation, Received French
and American Honors.**

J. Oliver Beebe

Creator unknown, circa 1930

Photograph: gelatin print, 33 x 25 cm.

Junius Oliver (1894-1933), also known as J. Oliver, was a member of the library board from 1920 to 1933 and served as chairman starting in 1924. He died tragically while training to become a pilot. This photograph was gifted to the library by J. Oliver's parents, Junius and Eleanor, and was framed by Boston Foster Brothers Pictures and Frames.

*New York Times obituary,
May 31, 1933*

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

NEW NONFICTION
ALCOVE



Lucius Morris Beebe

June Phillips, circa 1954-1955

Oil painting, 76 x 70 cm.

Grandson of the Lucius Beebe for whom this library was named - son of Junius and Eleanor. Lucius Morris' partner, Charles Myron Clegg, Jr., presented this oil painting to the library in his will. The background of the painting shows the Beebe family crest. The motto of the Beebe family is *Se Defendendo!* The family coat of arms consists of a gold chevron with two gold flying bees above and one below, all on an azure background.



*[Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg],
1953. Photograph courtesy of
California State Railroad Museum,
Portraits Collection.*

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

NEW NONFICTION
ALCOVE



Photo of the statue in the library, circa 1940s.

L'amour a l'arc

Richard Aurili, 1902

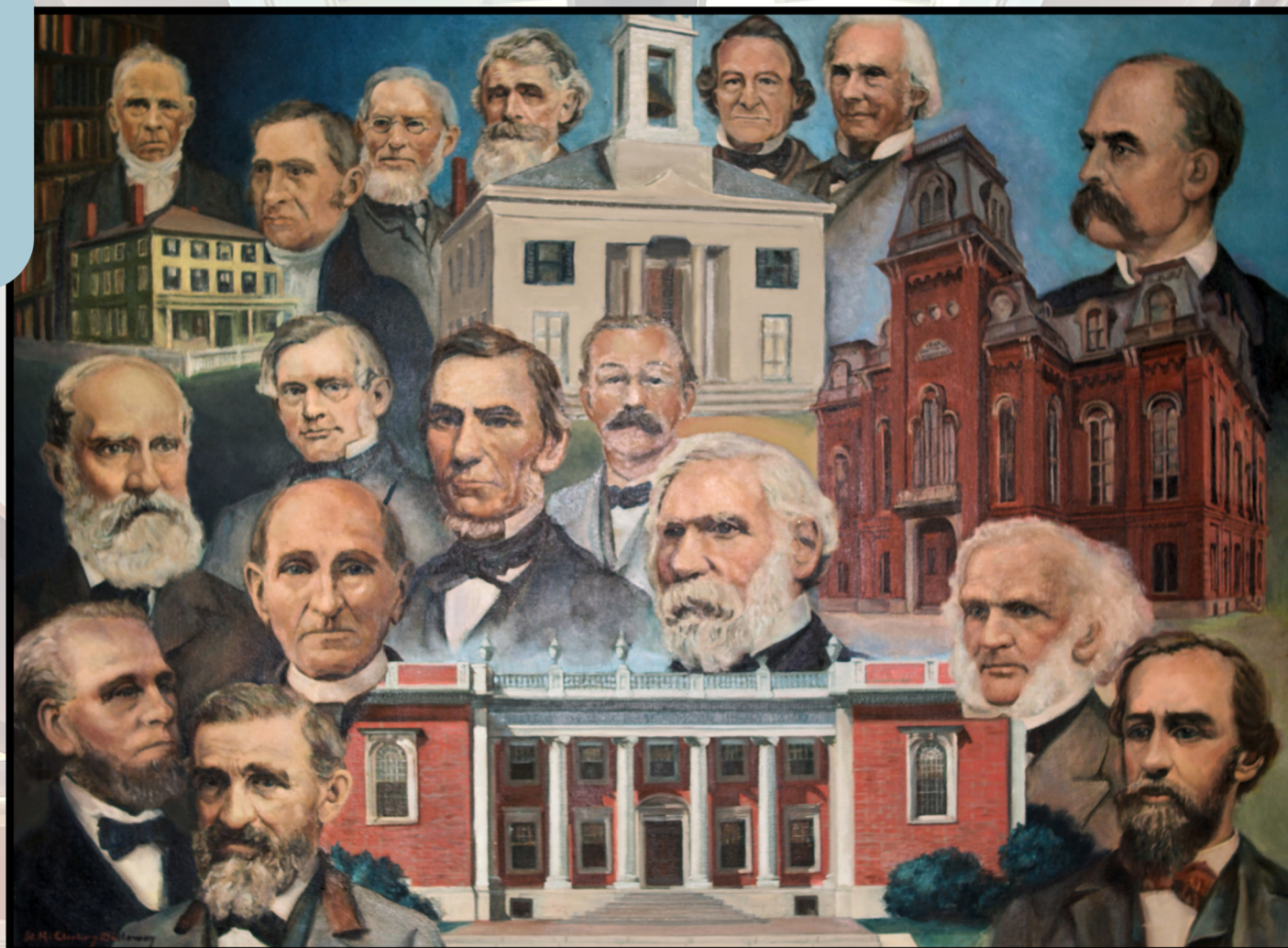
Cast spelter with marble base, 80 cm. high; base 30.5 cm. diameter

The name "R. Aurili" and the word "France" are cast into the base of the statue. The plaque on the base reads: "Par Aurilli (Beaux Arts 1902)."

The plate on which the statue stands reads: "Presented to L.M. Sergt. James H. Keough CoA 6th Regiment Infantry, M.V.M. by the officers and men of the Regiment in recognition of his work in making the high score of the American Team, winners of the Palma Trophy at Bisley, England July 11, 1903. Score 206." In his day, Major Keough was one of the nation's outstanding marksmen. He died in Wakefield on January 31, 1946 at the age of 82.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

REFERENCE AREA



History of the Library of the Town of Wakefield

Hope McCloskey Dillaway, 1970

Oil painting, 91 x 122 cm.

Notable Wakefield citizens who played a role in the establishment of the town's library. A detailed description is located near the painting and on the library's website.

Individuals included in the painting: Rev. Reuben Emerson; Lilley Eaton II; Franklin Poole; Abel F. Hutchinson; James Eustis; Samuel Kingman; Cyrus Wakefield; Benjamin F. Tweed; James Oliver; George O. Carpenter; Lilley Eaton III; Edward Mansfield; Lucius Beebe; James M. Evans; Ebenezer Wiley; Paul H. Sweetser; and John S. Eaton. Buildings included in the painting: the Homestead; Old Town House on Church Street; the 1868 Town Hall; Lucius Beebe Memorial Library (est. 1922).



Lucius Morris Beebe

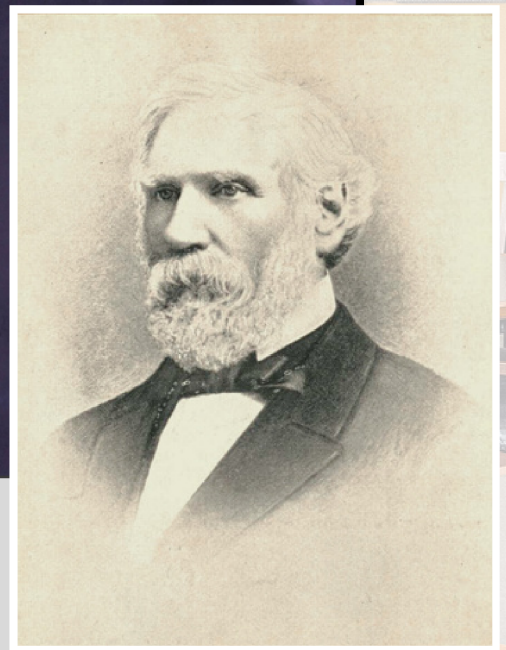
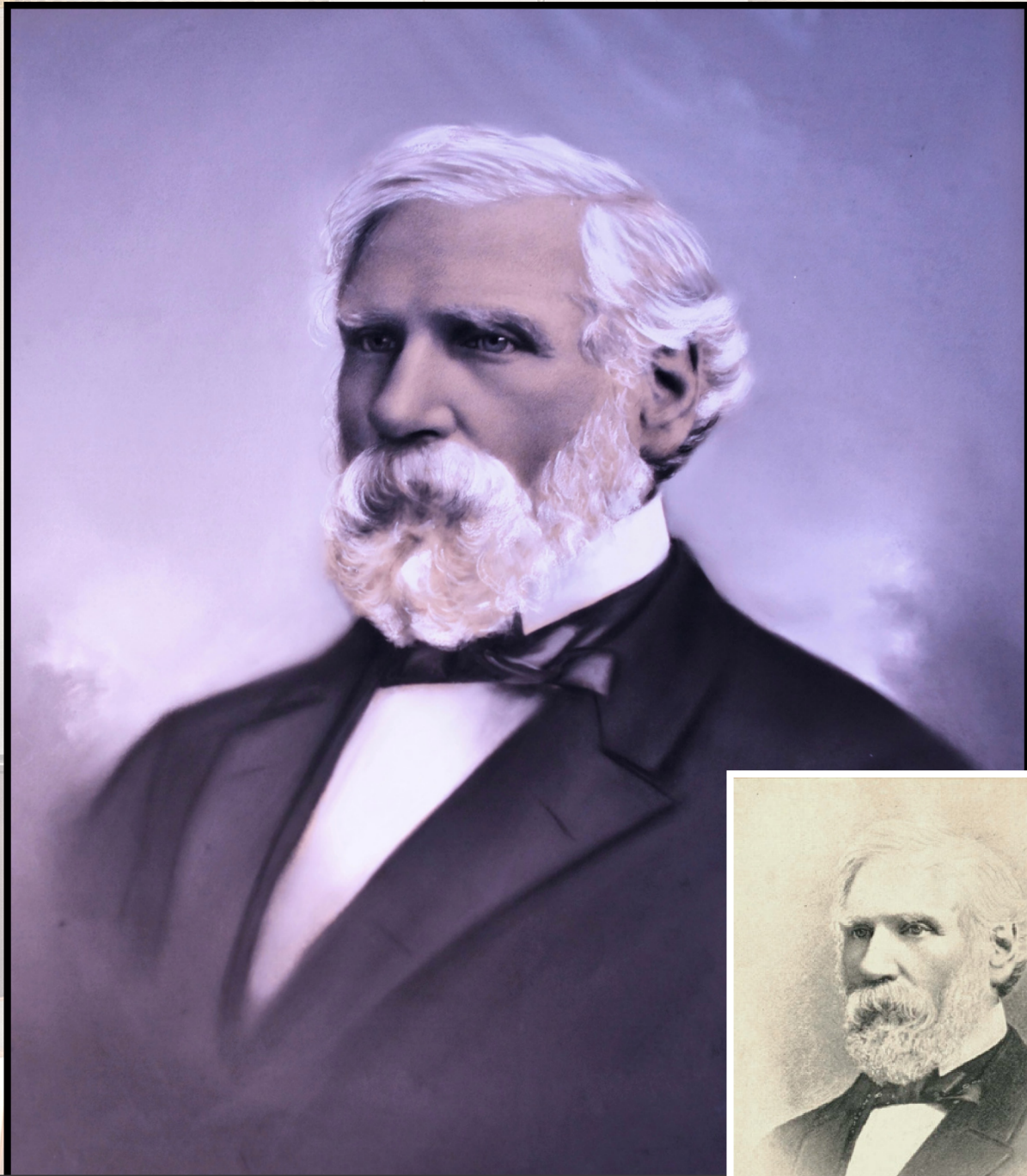
Spero Anargyros, date unknown

Bronze sculpture

Plaque reads: "The National Sculpture Society's John Spring Art Founder Award 42nd Annual Exhibition 1975"

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

LIVING ROOM



Lucius Beebe

M[?].F. Turner, circa late 1800s

Pastel portrait, 66 x 53 cm.

Lucius Beebe (1810-1884) is the library's namesake. His son, Junius Beebe (1854-1934), provided the funds for a new library building in the early 1900s and named the building for his father. The artist of this pastel portrait used the photograph on the right as a reference.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

LIVING ROOM



Junius Beebe

Creator unknown, circa early 1900s

Photograph: gelatin fiber print, 66 x 50 cm.

Junius Beebe (1854-1934) was the son of Lucius Beebe and Sylenda Morris Beebe. He donated \$60,000 in 1916 for the construction of the Beebe Library in memory of his parents. The photo was framed by Boston Foster Brothers Pictures and Frames.

(See page 3 for more information.)



Photo of Junius' daughter, Lucia, holding the trowel used at the cornerstone laying ceremony in 1922.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

Featured Artist: Payro



Joseph C. Payro (1862 - 1953)

Joseph C. Payro was born in Montreal, Canada in 1862 and lived in Wakefield for 70 years before his death in 1953. Well-informed on the history of Wakefield and an active member of the Wakefield Historical Society, his photographs and paintings of many buildings and landmarks in town earned him prominence in the community. Payro's oil paintings on display at the library depict important sites in Wakefield's history, many of which are no longer in existence.

While photography and painting were his hobbies, Payro earned his living as a reed worker for the Heywood-Wakefield Company, a rattan furniture company. His photographs of company products still exist and serve as historical reference sources.

In 1976, twenty-two years after his death, the Payro family donated a collection of his paintings to Beebe Library's permanent art collection.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

Featured Artist: Payro

LIVING ROOM



Yale Ave. to Lafayette St., South Reading, Mass., 1865

Joseph C. Payro, 1927

Oil painting, 57 x 121 cm.

[Left to right] Yale's Tin Shop, currently 317 Main St; Yale's Tavern, built 1752, taken down in 1865; C. Fletcher's Stable, removed to Centre St. in 1871, current site of First Baptist Church; Prentiss House, built 1808, current location of Wakefield's Town Hall.



Church St., Wakefield about 1860

Joseph C. Payro, 1926

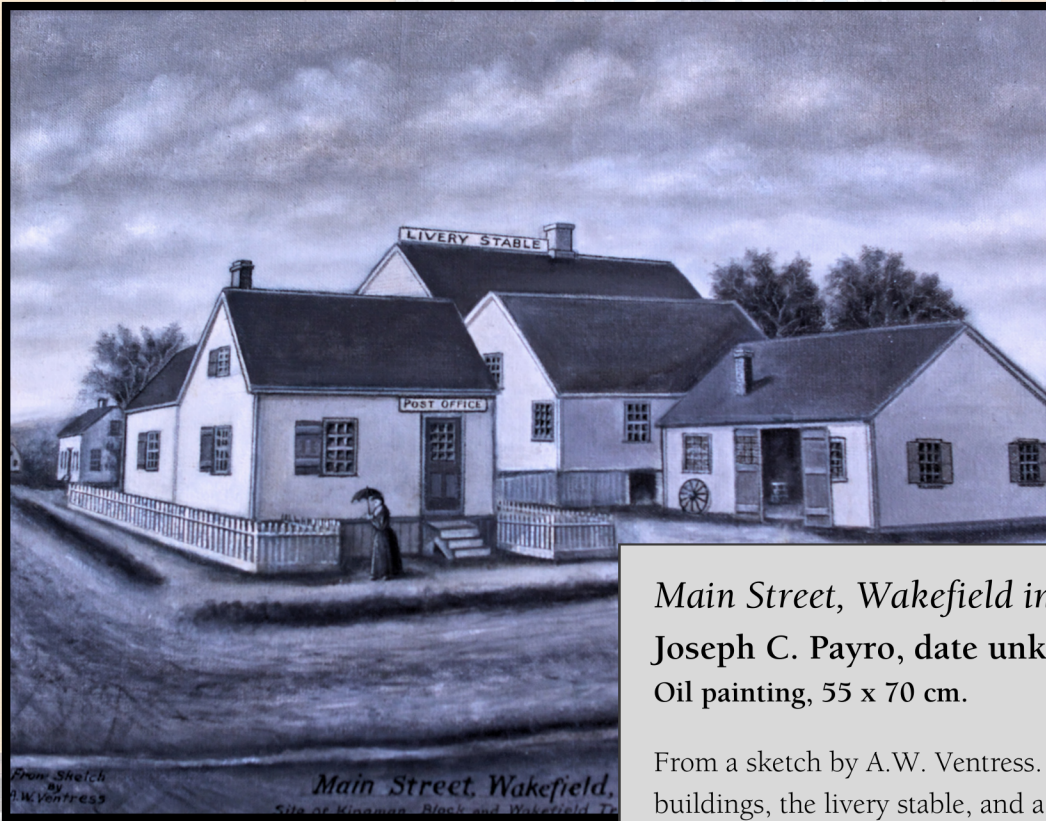
Oil painting, 69 x 132 cm.

Pictured left is the third iteration of the First Parish Congregational Church (1768-1890). The current First Parish Congregational Church (built in 1912) sits in approximately the same location - at the corner of Church Street and Lake Avenue. Also pictured: Town Hall, Yale Engine House, and Jerry Bryant's blacksmith shop.

ART ON THE FIRST FLOOR

Featured Artist: Payro

LIVING ROOM

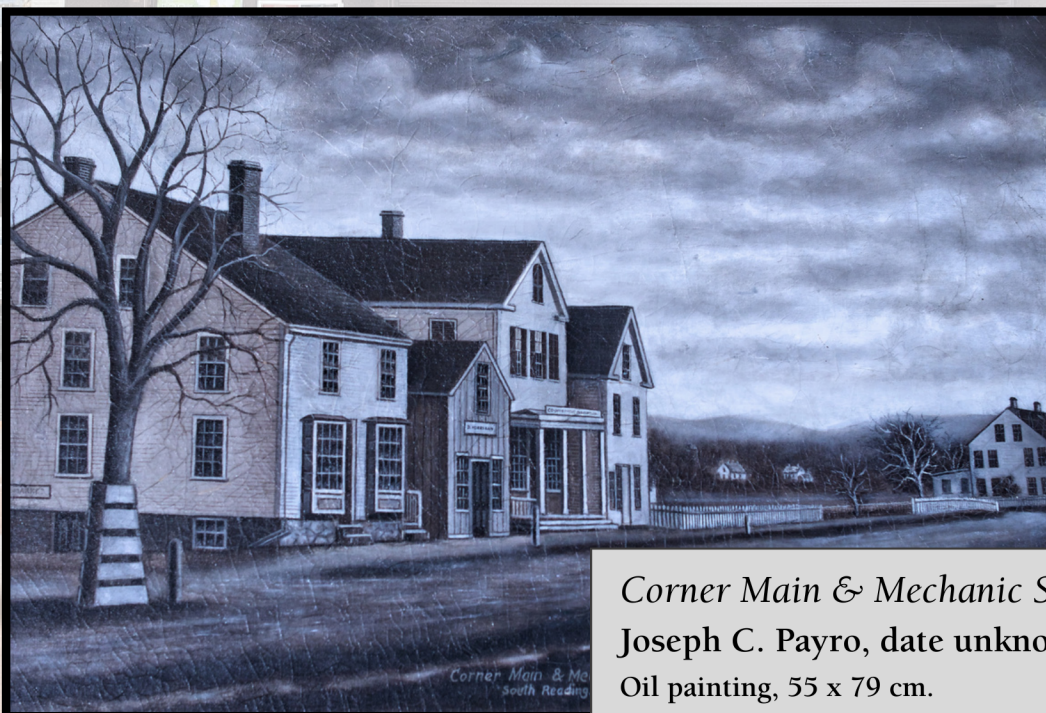


Main Street, Wakefield in 1857

Joseph C. Payro, date unknown

Oil painting, 55 x 70 cm.

From a sketch by A.W. Ventress. Painting shows the post office buildings, the livery stable, and a brook running down the middle of Main Street in 1857. Currently 369 Main Street, on the north corner of Albion Street.



Corner Main & Mechanic Sts., South Reading, 1865

Joseph C. Payro, date unknown

Oil painting, 55 x 79 cm.

Mechanic Street is now Princess Street.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Payro

TRUSTEES ROOM



Lakeside, Wakefield in 1870

Joseph C. Payro, 1928

Oil painting, 37 x 61 cm.

Main Street, Lakeside South Reading (now Wakefield). Copied from a painting by local artist Franklin Poole.



Universalist Church, Wakefield in 1858

Joseph C. Payro, date unknown

Oil painting, 43 x 61 cm.

East side of Main Street. Includes Universalist Church and Mr. Henry Knowles' Dry Goods and Grocery Stores. Opposite the current library location.



Quannapowitt House

Joseph C. Payro, 1929

Oil painting, 34 x 54 cm.

This Tavern, pictured around 1840, stood at what is currently 381 Main Street, on the south corner of Albion Street.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Payro

TRUSTEES ROOM



Wakefield Rattan Works in 1865

Joseph C. Payro, 1895

Oil painting, 46 x 61 cm.

Wakefield Rattan Company, looking northwest from Melvin Street. Water Street ran through the factory yard at that time.



*Daniel Norcross's Grocery Store in 1856,
Cor. Main & Chestnut Sts.*

Joseph C. Payro, 1927

Oil painting, 44 x 55 cm.



*Town Hall & Fire Engine House,
Church St., South Reading, 1852*

Joseph C. Payro, 1927

Oil painting, 45 x 61 cm.

From left: Town Hall, built 1834, removed to Salem Street 1873; Yale Engine House, built 1852; and Jerry Bryant's Blacksmith Shop. Copied from a painting by local artist Franklin Poole.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Morse



Thomas (Tom) D. Morse (1927-1996)

Thomas D. Morse was a native of Saugus, attended Saugus High School, and graduated from Salem State College with a Master's Degree in Education. He began his teaching career in Wakefield in 1953, teaching history and political science at Wakefield High School, and later at Lynnfield High School. He retired from teaching in 1978. An avid downhill skier, he was employed as a ski instructor at the Intervale Ski Area in New Hampshire and was a member of the National Ski Patrol. Morse also pursued a career in fine art, studying and painting with Don Stone of Rockport, MA.

Morse's talent as an artist earned him numerous titles and awards. His New England landscapes and seascapes are displayed throughout the US, including at the State Department in Washington DC and in Europe. He was very active in the community, serving on Wakefield's Board of Selectman in the 1950s and, in addition to teaching, was for many years a member of Wakefield's Fire Department. Morse played in the 929ers Banjo Club at the First Parish Congregational Church and was a member of Wakefield's Golden Rule Masonic Lodge.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Morse

TRUSTEES
HALLWAY

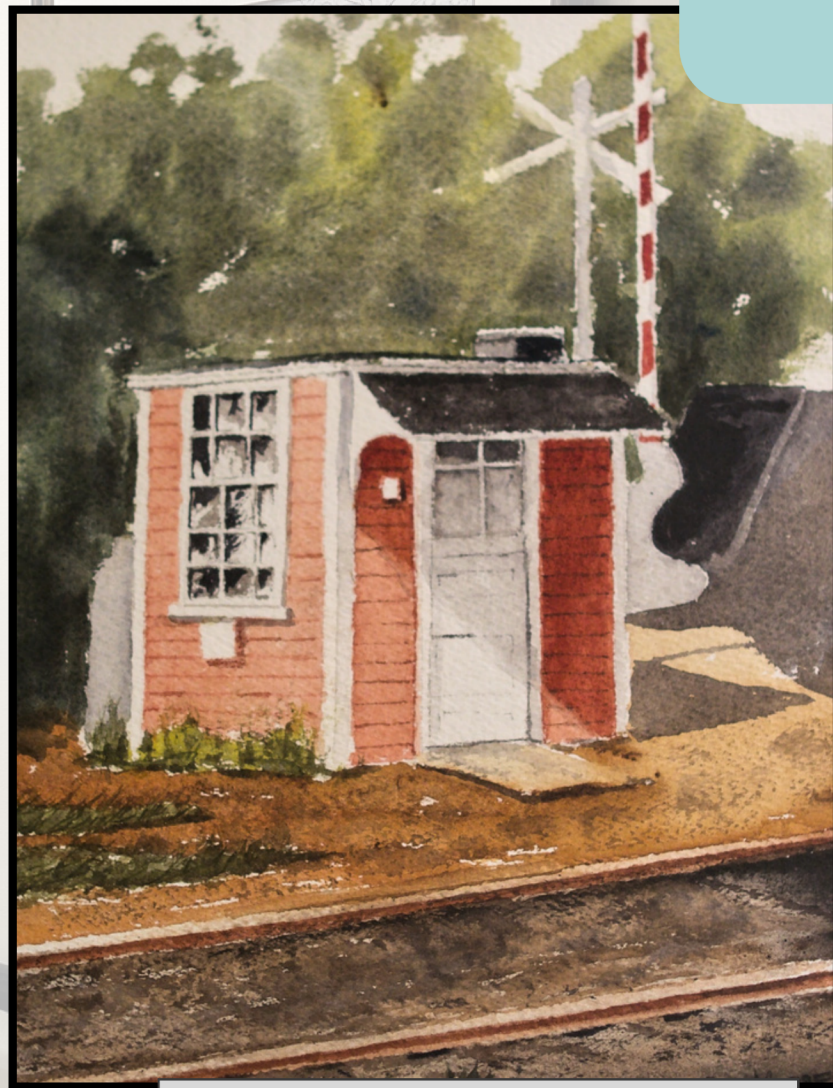


[Wakefield Park stone entrance gate]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 35 x 25 cm.

Depicts the stone gates located at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Park Avenue at the entrance to the Wakefield Park neighborhood, the development of which began in 1886. The area was promoted as “picturesque, delightful, healthful and progressive,” with elegant homes and building restrictions to “ensure the character of The Park.” The gate is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Wakefield Park Historic District.



[Railroad shack, corner of Forest and Main Streets]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 34 x 26 cm.

At the time this work was painted, the shack in Greenwood was one of the few remaining manned railroad shacks in the state.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Morse

TRUSTEES
HALLOWAY



[Crystal Coin Shop, corner of Main Street and Avon Street]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 25 x 36 cm.



[Franklin School Polling Place, 100 Nahant Street]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 36 x 25 cm.

The school was converted to housing around 2014.



[Old Nahant Road]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 27 x 34 cm.



[Depot Restaurant, Water Street]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

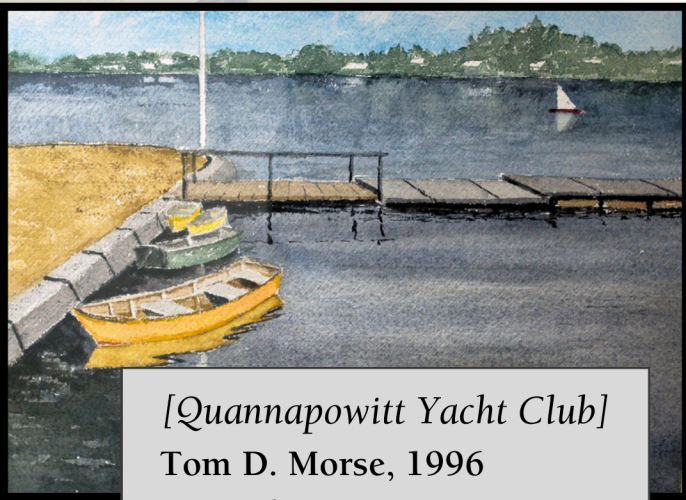
Watercolor painting, 26 x 36 cm.

The building continues to operate as a restaurant.

ART ON THE SECOND FLOOR

Featured Artist: Morse

TRUSTEES
HALLWAY



[Quannapowitt Yacht Club]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

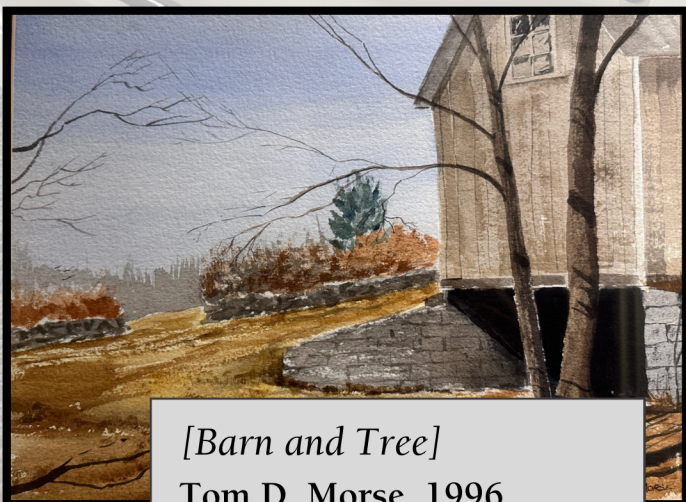
Watercolor painting, 27 x 36 cm.



[Old Burying Ground]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 27 x 36 cm.



[Barn and Tree]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

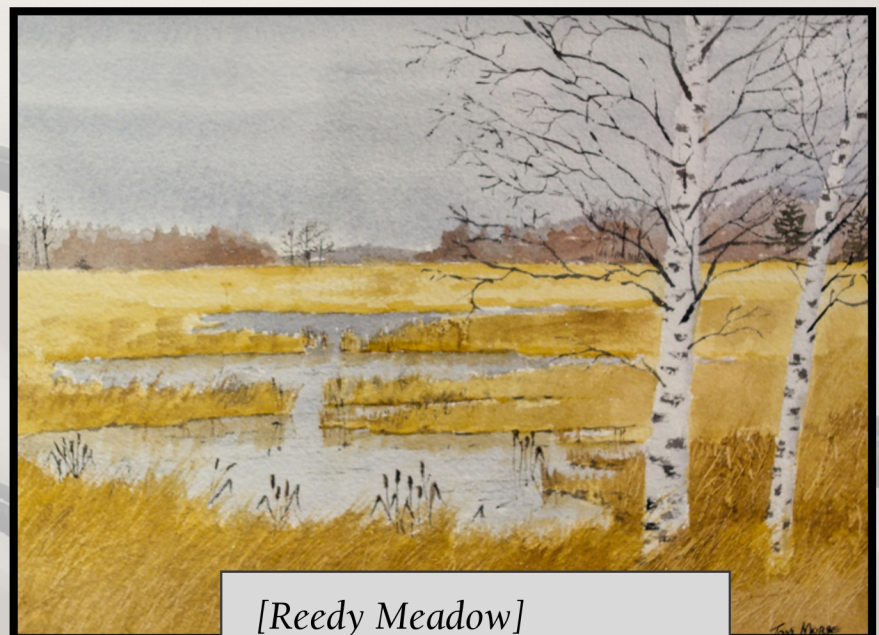
Watercolor painting, 27 x 36 cm.



[Stone Wall in Woods]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 27 x 36 cm.



[Reedy Meadow]

Tom D. Morse, 1996

Watercolor painting, 27 x 36 cm.

ART ON THE STAIRS



Wakefield Square Looking North

unknown artist, circa 1920s

donated by Cheryl Webb Scott

Oil painting, 140 x 325 cm.

This mural was originally on display at the Wakefield Trust Company. The scene is loosely based on a photograph of the town square some time after 1924, the year the Wakefield Trust moved to the pillared gray building on the left. Note that the house before the church on the left never actually existed. The library, mysteriously not pictured here, has stood on that site since 1922.



Sylenda Morris Beebe,

Mother of a Dozen

Kristen Kingsbury Henshaw,
2013

Acrylic on door panel, 122 x 48 cm

Sylenda Morris (1817-1869) was born in Wilbraham, MA and married Lucius Beebe in 1836. They had twelve children: Lucius Morris; William (who only lived two weeks, depicted as an angel in the painting); Charles Stuart; Louisa; Joseph Morris; Cyrus Gilbert; Marcus and Decius (twins); Junius; Frederick; Alice; and Sylenda.



Untitled

Rosemary Wells, n.d.

25 x 25 cm.

Gift from the illustrator,
March 2017.



